

Lois O'Keefe, thank you for your service to the 4th Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent due to the passing of my close personal friend and was not present for rollcall votes on Tuesday, October 22, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner: H.R. 185—To designate the United States courthouse located at 101 East Pecan Street in Sherman, Texas, as the “Paul Brown United States Courthouse”—“yes”; H.R. 3205—Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act—“yes”; Journal Vote—“yes.”

HONORING KEVIN SHANLEY OF GLADSTONE, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kevin Shanley of Gladstone, New Jersey. Kevin was a fine leader of the Newark Museum whose contributions will long be remembered. Kevin was also a successful businessman, a generous and caring philanthropist and a wonderful father and grandfather.

Kevin served as the Chairman of the Newark Museum for over 25 years. Under his leadership the museum underwent its largest expansion to date with the completion of its North Wing. His work at the museum expanded its mission and brought in objects and ideas that educated and inspired.

Kevin was a generous and caring philanthropist. He served as President and Treasurer of the Victoria Foundation, which assists young children and their families in the Newark community. Kevin also served on the Board of Trustees of New Jersey Futures, as a regent of St. Peter's University in Jersey City and on the boards of many other organizations. He was also a successful businessman working with a number of major companies. There he mentored many of his colleagues who appreciated his sound perspective and high degree of integrity.

Kevin's long devotion to his civic and personal responsibilities will forever be his legacy.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,078,769,687,926.64. We've added \$6,451,892,639,013.54 to our debt in 4

years. This is \$6.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 22, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed three votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 551, rollcall No. 552, and rollcall No. 553.

CRUCIAL NEGOTIATIONS ON HOW TO RESOLVE BUDGET CHALLENGES

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, for months the President repeatedly pledged that he would initiate long overdue negotiations on matters ranging from tax reform to regulatory reform and work with Republicans on the flaws emerging with his health care law. His stipulation was that Congress must first reopen government and raise the debt limit. Consequently, Mr. Speaker, last week I voted to end the budget impasse and tentatively co-operate with the President. While this agreement does not solve our long term challenges, it does allow us to move forward and begin crucial negotiations on how to resolve our budget challenges.

Throughout the fall, President Obama and Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID demanded a blank check and refused to negotiate. This plan is not a blank check. It was forged through negotiations and provides a short term extension for funding at lower spending levels than the Senate wanted. It includes a long overdue conference on a federal budget. The plan also includes a much needed change in the Affordable Care Act to ensure the income of individuals receiving subsidies is verified instead of relying on an honor system.

Most importantly, the plan ensures a host of other negotiations pledged by the President will move forward so we can address our growing debt, improve our economy, and fix the problems with the health care law. President Obama has promised on numerous occasions that once the government was open and the debt ceiling was raised he would be willing to negotiate “on anything.” This includes the budget, economic reforms, entitlement programs, and even the health care law. In the next few months the American public should be keenly aware whether he does what he said he would do. Finally Congress can hold the President accountable for his pledge to negotiate with Congress over these impediments to economic recovery.

Over the past several weeks, conservatives put up a strong fight to stop President Obama's health care law from being fully implemented. After trying to defund the law, delay it for a year, and ensure fairness so that

members of Congress don't get special treatment, it became clear that our tactics weren't working and we needed to regroup.

Given that Republicans are a minority in Washington we need to be realistic about what we can achieve. That does not mean we will give up the fight. We just need to be smart about where and when we choose to fight and pick battles we can win.

As we move forward with negotiations over the budget and other issues, we need to focus on ways we can achieve our objectives. We need to seek true reforms that don't just put off hard decisions to the next crisis. The challenges we face—a weak economy, a growing debt, a health care law that isn't working—are too important to just push off into the future.

The next step to overcome these challenges is for the President and Senator REID to open the negotiations we were promised.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL DARRELL D. JONES

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Darrell D. Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel, and Services, Headquarters United States Air Force, for his 34 years of faithful service to our country. The Air Force's senior personnel officer, General Jones is responsible for comprehensive plans and policies covering all life cycles of military and civilian personnel management, including military and civilian end strength management, education and training, compensation, resource allocation, and the worldwide United States Air Force services program. Over the course of Lieutenant General Jones' distinguished career, he commanded a squadron, group, two wings and a direct reporting unit. As previous Commander, Air Force District of Washington, and Commander of the Air Force Forces for Joint Forces Headquarters-National Capital Region, he organized, trained and equipped combat forces for aerospace expeditionary forces, homeland operations, civil support, national special security events and ceremonial events. He also provided major command-level support for 60,000 worldwide military and civilian personnel and was the Uniform Code of Military Justice authority for 40,000 Airmen.

General Jones graduated from Mississippi State University's Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program in 1979. He began his career as a personnel officer at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona in the Consolidated Base Personnel Office. He excelled in a variety of jobs as the Chief of Customer Assistance, Chief of Quality Force, and Chief of Personnel Utilization. Immediately after this assignment, then-Lieutenant Jones reported to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas where he was the Chief of the Assignment Analysis Branch and later the Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at Headquarters Air Training Command. Then-Captain Jones reported to Washington, District of Columbia as part of the very elite Air Staff Training Program as a personnel adviser and board member of the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council.

Then Captain-Jones and later Major-Jones held the first of his many assignments as a